



September 2009

Welcome to R4D's monthly e-newsletter
Bringing you information about DFID-funded research

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Evidence-based medicine takes centre stage in Verona

Researchers Joseph Okebe, Marzia Lazzerini, and Piero Olliaro from the [Effective Health Care Research Programme Consortium](#) shared the results of their latest Cochrane Reviews on iron in malaria, zinc in diarrhoea, and deciding on the best artemisinin combination with fellow tropical health researchers at the 6th European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health that took place 6-10 September in Verona, Italy. The RPC also presented their multi-layered communication strategy, and its links to a new GAVI knowledge initiative, led by Helen Smith and Xavier Bosch.

The Effective Health Care team are stepping up their communications work, and are looking for a new Communications Officer to help them do so. Find the details [here](#), and applications are due 5 October, 2009.

We need your views on Research4Development (R4D)

We are conducting a short survey help inform future improvements. It covers what you think of the current service from R4D, and what you would like to see.

The survey should take around 5 to 10 minutes to complete, depending how much you choose to say. It does not ask for personal, identifying data. Thank you in advance for your input!

To start the survey, please [click here](#).

Take note:

This is a revised newsletter for September. Apologies that some of you had problems opening the links in the previous newsletter.

The following DFID open consultations are currently underway:

[Building support for development in the UK](#) **Until 23 October, 2009**

[UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Canada, Ireland and the UK: A Joint Institutional Strategy](#) **Until 19 October, 2009**

[New Research Documents](#)

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CommsCorner

A weekly blog with ideas to inspire and inform, and a monthly post from a DFID researcher tackling a particular communications issue. Become a part of our communications community!

New Research Documents

Contention and Ambiguity: Mining and the possibilities of development

A. Bebbington, L. Hinojosa, D. H. Bebbington, M. Luisa Burneo, X. Warnars, *Development and Change* (2008) 39(6), 27 pages

There has been a dramatic growth in mining activity in many developing countries in the last fifteen years. This article reviews recent trends and describes the debates and conflicts they have triggered. They describe the different types of resistance and social mobilisation that have greeted mineral expansion, and consider how far these protests have changed the relationships between mining and political economic change. The conclusions address how far such protests might contribute to an 'escape' from the resource curse, and consider implications for research and policy agendas.

Efficiency and Employment Effects of GM Maize Producers in KwaZulu Natal

M. Gouse, J. Piesse, C. Poulton and C. Thirtle, ICABR Conference on the Future of Agricultural Biotechnology: Creative destruction, adoption, or irrelevance?, Ravello, Italy, June 12–14, 2008, 35 pages

This study investigates the relative efficiencies of conventional, insect resistant (Bt), and herbicide-tolerant (RR) maize grown by small farmers. The results show that both GM technologies have very little impact on efficiency and that the tillage system is an important determinant of efficiency levels. This is despite farmers using herbicide-tolerant seed having yields that were 85% higher. The cost of the seed cancels out this gain in the efficiency, even for the best farmers. The employment effects of the GM technologies are also investigated.

Elites, Governance and the Public Interest in Africa: Working with the grain?

D. Booth, APPP Discussion Paper No.6 London, 2009, 34 pages

There is a significant knowledge gap concerning governance and development in Africa. This paper reviews the issues and challenges, including the choice of a suitable approach to gathering and analysing the data; how to arrive at some reasonably firm working hypotheses while finding a pathway through the conceptual and methodological disputes among Africanist social scientists and historians with which such attempts tend to get entangled; and avoiding 'reinventing the wheel' by failing to draw fully on the concepts and methods pioneered in other fields of comparative institutional enquiry.

Collapsing the Vertical–Horizontal Divide: An ethnographic study of evidence-based policymaking in maternal health

D.P. Béhague and K.T. Storeng, *American Journal of Public Health* (2008) 98(4), 5 pages

Despite nominal support for an integrative health system approach, we found that competition for funds and international recognition pushes professionals toward vertical initiatives. Research practices contribute to the dominance of vertical strategies and limit the success of evidence-based policymaking. Rather than support disease-and subfield-specific advocacy, the public health community urgently needs to engage in open dialogue regarding the international, academic, and donor-driven forces that drive professionals toward an exclusive interest in vertical programs.

Implementing Community-based Perinatal Care: Results from a pilot study in rural Pakistan

Z.A. Bhutta, Z.A. Memon, S. Soofi, M.S. Salat, S. Cousens, J. Martines, *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* (2008) 86(6), 7 pages

This pilot study investigated the feasibility of delivering a package of community-based interventions for improving perinatal care using lady health workers (LHWs) and traditional birth attendants (Dais) in rural Pakistan. The improved stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates observed indicate that LHWs and Dais can be effective in implementing a community and outreach package that improves home care

practices by families and increases care-seeking behaviour and the use of skilled care providers. These preliminary observations require confirmation in an adequately powered trial.

A Model for Estimating Community Mental Health Service Needs and Resources

MhaPP Toolkit, Excel spreadsheet, 2009

The Mental Health and Poverty Project has developed a model for calculating the human resources and costs required for community-based care in South Africa. The model can be adapted and used for planning in other low- and middle-income countries. The spreadsheet model can be adapted to other contexts by adjusting the following assumptions or variables: population size; age distribution; prevalence; comorbidity; levels of coverage; ambulatory care utilisation rates; length of consultation; ambulatory care workloads; and staff profile.

Pathways through Early Childhood Education in Ethiopia, India and Peru: Rights, equity and diversity

M. Woodhead, Young Lives Working Paper 54, 2009, 32 pages

The potential of quality early childhood and primary education to help break inter-generational poverty cycles is widely recognised. Using evidence from Young Lives research into early transitions, this paper offers five broad conclusions, about the importance of: ensuring quality and equity in early education; better coordinated pre-school and school systems; targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children; recognising the full range of equity issues; and ensuring more effective governance, including governance of the private sector.

Enhancing Financial Literacy, HIV/AIDS Skills, and Safe Social Spaces Among Vulnerable South African Youth

Kelly Hallman, Kasthuri Govender, Eva Roca, Rob Pattman, Emmanuel Mbatha, and Deevia Bhana, Promoting Healthy, Safe and Productive Transitions to Adulthood, Brief 4, 4 pages

This report describes the findings of a four-year longitudinal study of young people aged 14–24 in KwaZulu-Natal. Researchers examined a range of issues, including the relationships among poverty, orphanhood, social isolation, and risky sexual behaviours. Findings indicate that these factors are associated with higher chances of risky sexual behavior and nonconsensual sex, particularly among girls. Moreover, these vulnerabilities often go hand-in-hand.

Trialing the new standards and specifications and extending the Lao LVRR surface and paving knowledge base. Final Report

TRL Limited, 2009, 73 pages

This project accomplished three key objectives. It ensured that the newly developed LVRR Standards and Specifications are appropriate to the actual field conditions in Laos; increased the Lao LVRR surfacing and paving knowledge; and strengthened the capacity of the Phong Saly provincial engineers to supervise the construction of various paving and surfacing technologies that are appropriate to the local environment.

Religion Versus Ethnicity as a Source of Mobilisation: Are there differences?

F. Stewart, CRISE Working Paper No.70, 2009, 36 pages

Most conflict analyses treat religion as a subset of ethnicity. This paper explores differences by reviewing literature and analysing recent surveys of perceptions in conflict-affected countries. It finds many similarities in mobilisation, with both identities used instrumentally by leaders, but both 'essentialised' and 'believed in' by those mobilised. Leaders have to cultivate the identity of those mobilised, and that of the 'other', to induce violence on any scale. Religious organisation and external support are often stronger than for ethnicity, but there is no evidence that religious conflicts are more deadly than ethnic ones.

Hybrid Activism: Paths of globalisation in the Brazilian environmental movement

A. Alonso, IDS Working Paper No.332, 2009, 51 pages

Focusing on two case studies of environmental activism in Brazil, this paper argues that local and global activism are not two separate realms. Transnational activists circulate across the two spaces. In

the global spaces, they build alliances with foreign groups, and in the local ones, they deal with the national state, other organised groups and ordinary communities living inside environmental areas they aim to protect. Activists live in both spheres, and in their lived experience, their meanings and strategies, they forge hybrid identities in the sense of being at the same time local and global.

With Education You Can Do Anything; Without Education There's Nothing You Can Do

N. Singal, R. Jeffery, A. Jain and N. Sood, RECOUP Working Paper 24, 2009, 51 pages

More children with disabilities now enrol in formal education, but does it lead to jobs? This paper assembles data from a qualitative enquiry into how young people (aged 15-30) in Madhya Pradesh, India, with three impairments (in hearing, seeing and walking) understand the role played by education in their lives. Whereas parents and elder siblings see schooling as a failure if it does not lead to jobs, the young people with disabilities focus on education's enabling roles. The paper recommends policies for improving schooling and access to government benefits.

State–Business Relations in Indian States: Paper towards constructing an effective SBR index for Indian states

M. Cali, S. Mitra and P. Purohit, IPPG Discussion Paper Series No.25, 2009, 59 pages

Effective relations between states and business have been increasingly identified as an important institution for sustaining economic development. This work describes the construction of quantitative indices measuring the quality of state–business relations (SBRs) across Indian states in the 1975–2008 period. It represents the first effort to systematically characterise SBRs across sub-national units within a country without resorting to subjective surveys.

'We Have Always Lived Here': Indigenous movements, citizenship and poverty in Argentina

M. vom Hau and G. Wilde, CPRC Working Paper No.146, 2009, 27 pages

This paper explores the politics of difference in Argentina since the 1994 constitutional reform and its ramifications for citizenship and indigenous wellbeing. Through a comparison of land struggles among the Mbya Guaraní in Misiones and the Diaguita Calchaquí in Tucumán, we show that new collective rights gained traction only once indigenous social movements employed the language of 'differentiated rights' and pushed for the implementation of multicultural legislation.

Additional Resources for Electronic Records Management

International Records Management Trust, 2009, 74 pages

This publication outlines resources available in electronic records management (ERM) and other relevant fields. This module is part of Training in Electronic Records Management (TERM), developed by the International Records Management Trust as part of a project to establish integrity in public sector information systems. The five modules are: Understanding the Context of ERM; Planning and Managing an ERM Programme; Managing the Creation, Use and Disposition of ER; Preserving ER; and Personnel Records as the Information Base for Human Resource and Payroll Management.

Internalizing Monitoring Impact Assessment and Learning Processes

M. Borgoyary, S. Tiwari, and H. Jaenicke, CoDI Briefing, 2009, 2 pages

The monitoring of projects has typically been planned, implemented and considered as a form of 'policing', instead of as an opportunity to learn, innovate and strategise to maximise outputs. There is however a paradigm shift taking place. Lessons from the implementation of development projects indicate that although external mid-term and end-of-project reviews have their benefits and help to justify investments, internalising monitoring systems within project designs and implementation have far greater, long-term and meaningful benefits.

[More documents](#)

Recent News Stories

New TB regimens: What countries want

Analysis of interviews with 211 key stakeholders in Brazil, China, India, Kenya and South Africa conducted by the TB Alliance has found that treatment shortening would be welcomed as a primary goal for future TB drug regimens. Stakeholders want: oral delivery, dosing consistent with current local practices, availability as fixed-dose combinations (FDCs) in most countries, a high degree of safety, without lasting or serious side effects, or significant interactions with anti-retrovirals (ARVs) or other essential medicines, and efficacy equal to or greater than the current regimen.

How will climate change affect insect-borne diseases?

The latest spotlight from SciDev.Net looks at the impact of climate change on the spread of insect-borne diseases such as malaria, dengue fever and Rift Valley fever that are endemic in many parts of the developing world, causing millions of deaths each year. As well as considering the evidence for the likely effects on these diseases, it examines how developing countries can prepare for these changes and provides advice to policymakers already struggling to control them.

HIV therapy could be given safely without routine laboratory tests to save more lives in Africa

The largest clinical trial ever run in Africa of anti-retroviral therapy (ART) for people with HIV infection has found that regular laboratory tests offer little additional clinical benefit to populations when compared to careful clinical monitoring. If lab tests were not routinely used to monitor the effects of ART, many more people with HIV in Africa could be treated for the same amount of money.

Helping students become global citizens

Undergraduates in London studying medicine, pharmacy and veterinary science will be learning more about global issues and how their professions can contribute to international development. Students from the Royal Veterinary College, the School of Pharmacy, and the Medical School of University College London will be taught about the social, economic and cultural context of the developing world during the three-year scheme run by the Institute of Education's Development Education Research Centre in partnership with the London International Development Centre (LIDC).

Call for papers: Rethinking African economic policy in light of the global economic and financial crisis

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) with the support of The World Bank, ADB, UNDP, IDRC and USAID is organizing a three-day conference from 6–8 December, 2009 on 'Rethinking African Economic Policy in Light of the Global Economic and Financial Crisis'. Among the topics will be whether African governments should rethink policies of privatisation and fiscal austerity, and the appropriate role of the African state in economic management in the wake of the crisis. Offers to present papers must be received by **23 October, 2009**.

Sharing the evidence: Immpact releases new Resource CD

Since 2002 Immpact has aimed to promote better health for mothers-to-be in developing countries. It develops methods and tools for measuring maternal mortality and other relevant outcomes, and highlights evidence on effective and cost-effective strategies to reduce maternal mortality and severe morbidity that are supportive of, and supported by, health systems and communities. The Immpact Resource CD contains 130 documents that can be searched by bibliographic details, countries, topics and keywords, making it the easiest way to search and sort all of Immpact's published information.

Young Lives: Research ethics in practice

The Young Lives website now sets out the programme's approach to research ethics. Research ethics enable high-quality research while maintaining positive relationships between the research teams and

the children and families who participate in the study. The webpage outlines some of the practical measures being taken with regard to: Informed consent (including a Memorandum of Understanding for research teams); Anonymity and confidentiality (including guidelines on the use of photography); Rewards and compensation for participation; Reporting back to communities; and Child protection.

New funding opportunities for four health-related Research Programme Consortia (RPCs)

DFID's Research Strategy 2008–13 sets out priorities for long-term research. DFID anticipates funding four research themes where each RPC will be up to £7.5 million over six years, including an inception phase of up to one year. The four themes are: Delivering effective health services; Health systems and financing; Meeting the unmet need for family planning and improving access to safe abortion services; and Evidence building and synthesis research. **Closing date for applications is 9th October 2009. A further call for other RPC health themes will be made in 2010.**

Computer modelling could help to reduce the human cost of cyclones

In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis hit the Ayeyarwady River delta of Myanmar (Burma). More than 138,000 people died, largely due to flooding caused by a 12–15-foot storm surge. Data collected during a field survey of 150km of coastline in August 2008 is being used to develop computer modelling software capable of accurately predicting the extent of future storm surges. The School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, USA is developing the software, which should be completed in October and available for use next year.

DFID releases a new project database

DFID has taken an important step in fulfilling commitments in the 2009 White Paper 'Building Our Common Future', and in implementing the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action. A new database publishes information about all DFID-funded projects, from emergency aid for countries affected by conflict or humanitarian crises, to ongoing support to improve health, education and sanitation in the poorest countries. In future information about completed projects will be included, and there will be more details and an RSS feed for updates.

Asian irrigation systems need updating to meet future food supply challenges

A new joint report from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), presented at the World Water Week Conference in Sweden on 18 August, warns that Asian irrigation systems need to be updated to meet the challenge of feeding an extra 1.5 billion people by 2050. Without improvements in irrigation, developing countries in Asia may need to import more than a quarter of the rice, wheat and maize needed to feed their populations.

NERC publishes 'Science into Policy' booklet

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) has published the second edition of its booklet 'Science into Policy: Taking part in the Process'. The booklet aims to help NERC staff and NERC-funded scientists to: a) recognise the relevance of science to policy-makers; b) identify available opportunities, routes and best practice to influence policy-making; c) communicate science in an appropriate and accessible way, to the right policy-makers, showing how it fits their policy needs. It explains key aspects of the UK policy-making process and links to important information sources.

Short films wanted for Development & Climate Days film festival

The Development and Climate Film Festival provides a platform for amateur and independent filmmakers from around the world to showcase short films on issues relating to climate change. The festival will run over the weekend of the 12-13 December, 2009, during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen, as a parallel event to the 'Development and Climate Days' (organised by IIED, IISD, and SEI). The organisers are looking for short films, up to 10 minutes in length, on climate and development. Films should be supplied in any of these formats on a separate DVD: AVI, MOV (quicktime). MPEG-1, MPEG-4. **The deadline for sending a hard copy of your film is 15 October, 2009.**

[More news stories](#)

About R4D – DFID’s research portfolio on your desktop

R4D contains a searchable database of more than 5,000 project records and the details of more than 22,000 outputs from research funded by DFID’s Central Research Department during the past 10 years. It also includes research activities prior to 2005 in Rural Livelihoods, Health, Social Sciences, Education, and Infrastructure and Urban Development. Every month we add new projects, documents, and outputs.

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